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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE LUNATIC ASYLUM AT WESTON.

The joint committee of the Senate and House of Delegates of West Virginia, appointed in accordance with a resolution passed July 17th, 1863: "To inquire into and report the progress made in the construction of the Lunatic Asylum at Weston; how soon the same, or any part thereof will be ready for use, or occupation; the character of the work done; the amount already expended in the construction of said asylum; what balance (if any) of the appropriations heretofore made, is unexpended; also to ascertain and report whether a portion of said building can be fitted up as a temporary Penitentiary, without detriment to the building in view of its original purpose, and if the committee could not otherwise procure the information desired, it was instructed to go to Weston and inspect said work and examine the accounts and vouchers of expenditures."

The committee failing to obtain the desired information without, visited the Asylum on the 2d day of September, 1863, and gave the building a careful and thorough examination. We found the structure to be of no ordinary character. For extensiveness, quality of material used, and the execution of the work, we have rarely seen surpassed. The present board deserves great credit for their perseverance and economy in its construction. They have labored under many difficulties, owing to rebel raids which destroyed some thousand dollars worth of tools, driving away hands, thereby increasing the price of laborers, &c. But through the indomitable perseverance of the present board, they are progressing finely. The entire building (including the wings) fronts twelve hundred and thirty-two feet, (1232,) the wings are each 220 feet and to be one story, the main centre building, which is to be three stories, is some 792 feet. The foundation (which is stone) is all laid but a portion of the right wing, the masonry of which cannot be surpassed. The walls are sunk below the quick sands and built upon a rock. The outside walls of the structure, so far as is built on the foundation, is of cut stone of the finest quality and neatly executed and lined on the inside with a superior quality of brick, which makes the walls very true and easy to be plastered. The left wing is under roof of the finest slate, and all ready for plastering, only waiting for the gas pipes and heaters to be put in, and the laying of the floors. This part of the building (it is thought) can be finished and furnished ready for use against the middle of December

next, and will be capable of accommodating 40 patients, besides the rooms necessary for attendants, &c. One story of the main building to the centre, will be up against winter, and the walls protected against frost, ready for work next spring. There was appropriated and drawn from the treasury of Virginia, by the old board, $125,000 00, $98,000 00 of which was expended by that board for 276 acres of land, for building the foundation, cost of tools, lumber, &c. The balance unexpended at the commencement of the rebellion was $27,000 00, which amount was taken by the reorganized government of Virginia and deposited in the treasury at Wheeling. Out of the $27,0000 00 the present board ordered $2,371 23 to be paid for debts contracted by the former board, which was drawn from the treasury at Wheeling. The amount drawn by the present board out of the $27,000 00 was $23,683 23 which leaves $945 75 as a balance of the $27,000 00 now in the State Treasury. The following is a statement as per books and vouchers:

1861. To amount ordered to be paid at Wheeling,	$ 2,371 23
" " " received by present board,	23,683 02
" " " still in the treasury at Wheeling,	945 75
	$27,000 00
From 1861 to Nov. 1862, amount expended,	$20,354 99
From Nov. 1862 to Aug. 1st, 1863, amount expended,	12,327 95
Making an amount expended of,	$34,683 94
Aug. 1st, 1863. To amount on hands,	29,106 02
	$63,788 96
From 1861 to Nov. 1862, By amount received by present board,	$23,682 02
By amount overpaid and returned to board,	105 94
" " appropriated by act passed Jan. 27, 1863,	40,000 00
	$63,788 96
Aug. 1st, 1863. Amount on hand,	$29,106 02
" in treasury at Wheeling,	945 75
	$30,051 77
Probable expenditures for the month of Aug. 1863,	3,600 00
Sept. 1st, 1863. Balance on hands,	$26,451 77
Probable cost of finishing and furnishing the left wing ready for patients, $15,000 00	
For completing first story of the main building to the centre and protecting walls from frost through the winter, 5,000 00	$20,000 00
Supposed balance to be on hand 1st of March, 1864,	$ 6,451 77

In the completion of the entire building, the right wing, (according to the original plan, which we would recommend to be carried out,) will have to be raised in its foundation, so as to bring the one story intended for patients, on a level with the rest of the building, sufficient to make two lower stories that might be converted into a temporary Penitentiary, with the additional cost over its original purpose, of some $10,000 00, and will accommodate about 100 convicts. In order to erect this part of the building for that purpose, it will be necessary for an appropriation of seventy thousand dollars, ($70,000 00,) and to put the main building (now in construction) from the left wing to the centre, under roof, it will be necessary to make an appropriation of twenty-five theusand dollars ($25,000 00.) And in order that the work may be prosecuted the coming season, we would recommend a liberal appropriation at this session. There is much valuable building material on hand that should be used soon, or else it will suffer loss from exposure, &c. Some 30 or 35 convicts could be used to advantage next spring on much of the rough work, and they can be kept in a block house built and used for that purpose before the rebellion.

D. D. T. FARNSWORTH,
On part of Senate.
L. E. DAVIDSON,
L. BALLARD.
On part of House.